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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 30 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Group of Africa States at the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit a copy of the communiqué of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa issued on 28 April 1992 at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, and request you to have it circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 27 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) William BULL
Permanent Representative
of Liberia
Chairman of the African Group
for the month of April

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ANNEX

Communiqué issued on 28 April 1992 at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, by the Ad Hoc Comittee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa of the Organization of African Unity

1. The OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa held its eighth session in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 28 April 1992 to review the developments in southern Africa.

South Africa

2. The Committee was encouraged by the ongoing negotiations process under the CODESA framework. It appealed to the liberation movements and all democratic forces in South Africa to make use of the negotiating process so as to expedite progress towards the establishment of a non-racial, democratic and united South Africa.

3. The Committee made an urgent appeal for unity among the liberation movements and the democratic forces in South Africa at this crucial stage of the struggle against apartheid. In this connection, the Committee urged the reconvening, as a matter of urgency, of the Patriotic Front Conference with the clear objective of achieving unity among the liberation movements and other democratic forces and adopting a common position on the process of negotiations. The Committee requested OAU to facilitate the holding of such a conference.

4. The Committee noted with regret that some countries had taken unilateral measures to lift sanctions against South Africa, which went beyond the common position agreed upon by the international community on a phased lifting of sanctions. The Committee underscored the need for cohesion and concerted action by the international community so that the necessary pressures would continue to be exerted on South Africa until a profoundly irreversible stage was reached in the process of negotiations aimed at establishing a democratic and non-racial South Africa. In this regard, the Committee resolved that the emplacement of an interim government, charged with supervising the transition to democratic rule, including the holding of free and fair elections under universal adult suffrage on a common voters roll, would mark the pivotal stage of an irreversible march towards the ending of apartheid. It is only at that stage that Africa and the rest of the international community can constructively enter into a relationship with the authorities of South Africa that is resolutely engaged on the path towards the establishment of a democratic society.

5. The Committee also expressed its concern over the continued killings in the Black community in South Africa and the failure by the Government effectively to maintain peace and security in the country and to put an end to

the wave of violence. The Committee appealed to all the parties in South Africa to take every possible step to end the carnage in the townships. In this connection, and as requested by the liberation movements, the Committee stressed the need to ensure active international involvement on the issue of violence by bringing it formally before the United Nations Security Council for its attention and action. The Committee also resolved to send an OAU monitoring team to South Africa in order to assess and report on the situation in that country, especially the escalating violence, and provide impetus to the negotiation process.

6. The Committee supported the call by national liberation movements for the establishment of an elected constituent assembly to draw up a new constitution for a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

Mozambique

7. The Ad Hoc Committee viewed with grave concern the continued war of destruction and destabilization being waged by RENAMO in Mozambique. It expressed shock and dismay at the continued killing of innocent civilians, particularly women, children and the elderly.

8. The Committee commended President Joaquim Chissano for his untiring efforts in the search for peace and stability in Mozambique and in the creation of the necessary conditions for the normalization of life for every citizen in the country.

9. The Committee further appreciated the spirit of flexibility and compromise demonstrated by the Government of Mozambique during the negotiations in Rome and called upon RENAMO to respond positively.

10. President Joaquim Chissano informed the Committee about the disaster caused by a Greek oil tanker Katina-P. The Ad Hoc Committee expressed its serious concern in relation to this ecological disaster of unforeseen consequences, which will aggravate an already difficult situation facing Mozambique as a result of the war and drought. The Committee appealed to the international community to support Mozambique in every way possible in her efforts to confront this problem.

Angola

11. The Ad Hoc Committee commended the people of that country for their efforts towards ensuring peace and national reconciliation. Furthermore, it encouraged the Government and people of Angola to pursue the peace process, which would be marked by the holding of elections in September 1992.

Drought situation in southern Africa

12. The Ad Hoc Committee expressed deep concern over the looming danger of hunger in the region caused by extensive drought. It took note of the coordinated efforts deployed by the countries of the region through SADCC to avert this danger and appealed for generous international assistance and cooperation in coping with what is potentially a devastating situation.

13. The Committee expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all delegations during their stay in Arusha.